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## **Appendix B: Summary of Citizen Comments**

One citizen submitted a comment regarding this CAPER report. The comment is summarized below.

### Comments from Mr. Dennis Saxman, Seattle

Mr. Saxman wrote to provide his assessment of the HOPWA program's citizen participation process. Specifically, Mr. Saxman noted that based on his experience as an "unaligned consumer," the section in the CAPER on HOPWA "paints an overly rosy picture of the current housing situation for People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) as well as the extent of public participation in the process." He further wrote that "I have been a regular attendee of the AIDS Housing Committee mentioned in the report. I have never felt welcome there as a consumer." Mr. Saxman then proceeds to provide details about his experiences with the Committee. For instance, according to Mr. Saxman, despite having raised "serious systemic issues about the housing providers for PLWHA," the AIDS Housing Committee informed him that the Committee was not the place to discuss personal housing grievances. Mr. Saxman also went on to write that the City did not impartially investigate his complaints about a provider agency.

Mr. Saxman offers the conclusion that "consumer participation in general is not welcomed by either the City of Seattle or the agencies whose contracts it is responsible for administering. Consumer grievances and complaints are not seriously entertained or impartially investigated."

In closing, Mr. Saxman noted that he was originally a part of the HOPWA Work Group mentioned in the CAPER, but his comments were "frequently not noted by the facilitator" and that after the work group process was closed, "the priorities that had been decided on by the earlier group have been narrowed or vary completely from the priorities in this group's final conclusions and recommendations." Mr. Saxman wrote that he "wanted to make sure you [i.e. the City] were aware of just how much the experience of me and other members of the public experience [sic] differs from what is represented in this report. The City of Seattle wishes to give the appearance of public participation and consumer input: the reality is quite different."